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Author

Title

Imprint

JULY

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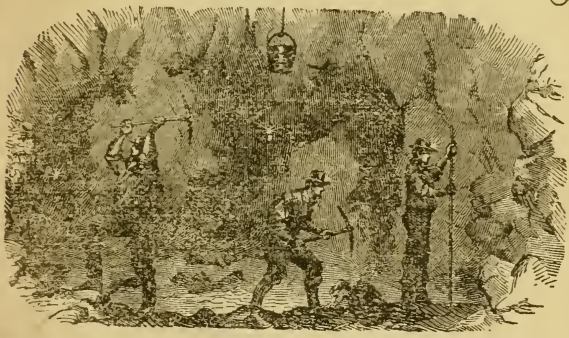
THE CENTENNIAL CHRONOLOGY

OF

Luzerne County



AND ITS COAL FIELDS.

BY W. E. W.

1776

One hundred years of freedom,
In Freedom's holy land,
Have blessed our glorious Union
And linked us hand-in-hand!

1876

F157
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WILKES-BARRE, LUZERNE COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA.

PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM E. WHYTE.

INTRODUCTORY.

"Who'll press for gold this crowded street,
A hundred years to come?
Who'll tread yon church with willing feet,
A hundred years to come?
Pale, trembling Age and fiery Youth,
And Childhood with his brow of truth,
The rich and poor, on land, on sea,
Where will the mighty millions be,
A hundred years to come?"

One hundred years have rolled away since a small portion of these *United States* were colonies governed by a foreign power, and the *centennial year* of the independence of the great American Union is about to be celebrated in the grandest and most imposing manner in the history of nations.

The dawn of a *second century* in the history of American independence is upon us, and still the American Union is *intact*, the American nation an established fact, powerful as the mother from which she sprung, she takes her place among nations, while the emblem of her nativity, the *stars and stripes*, is seen floating in the breeze on every sea and in every clime.

And the result, what is it? The result is truly wonderful! It has proved that a man is capable of self-government, that republics can be built up, and that civilization, enterprise and industry can be cultivated by them equally as well, if not better, than under a different form of government, to prove which, we are exhibiting to the universe, at our great World's Fair (a city in itself) now being held in

Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, such works of art and industry as will not only astonish foreign visitors but thousands upon thousands of our own citizens.

Yes, "the result of American independence has been truly wonderful," for, cast your eyes on the map, and what do you see from the Atlantic to the Pacific? A continent dotted with numberless cities, towns, villages and hamlets, inhabited by a progressive and intelligent people, where, but a few years ago, comparatively speaking, the savage child of the forest, the Indian, roamed uncouthly clad in fantastic garments, and with his dusky face still more uncouthly daubed with the war paint of his tribe, armed with rude tomahawk, spear and bow, intent upon nothing save war, plunder, pleasure and idleness—and all this, yes, all this! has been accomplished in a brief century, a period but as *yesterday* compared with the history of far less progressive nations.

"Wonderful" indeed! The remark is well applied; for has not *thirteen* States of 815,615 square miles, thinly populated with but 3,000,000 of civilized beings, suddenly grown into THIRTY-EIGHT vast and powerful States and nine territories, the latter soon to become States also, and into 3,000,000 square miles of territory with a population, no doubt, of upwards of 45,000,000 of souls, which, coupled with a vast seaboard of thousands of miles, and about 65,000 miles of railroads, far more than double the circumference of the globe, cannot fail to astonish the world with the vast progress the American nation has made in every respect during a century of time.

But I am digressing, for this little volume is intended to treat of our county and not of the United States, but it occurs to me that a few remarks touching the progressive career of our great Republic have not been out of place.

The County of Luzerne is the largest of all the sixty-five counties of the Keystone State, indeed, it may be termed a commonwealth in itself, being larger than the State of Rhode Island. It covers an area of 1427 square miles and has a population of nearly, if not quite, 200,000 inhabitants. It is celebrated for its vast coal fields, in

the production of which it is the *Banner* county of the State, and in many other works of industry will compare favorably with her sister counties.

WILKES-BARRE, the county seat, an important city of 35,000 inhabitants (more or less), is located on the east bank of the Susquehanna river, is distant from New York about 175 miles and from Philadelphia about 150 miles, which points can be reached daily by no less than *three* different lines of railroad.

In conclusion I would remark that as I purpose giving in this little volume, in chronological order, *facts and incidents* connected with the history of the county from its early settlement, *then* a part of the territory of Westmoreland, and later of the County of Northumberland, up to the present time, a period (during its early years especially), so fraught with interesting and thrilling events, together with other matter connected with the centennial year. I will not trespass further on your patience, but subscribe myself,

Most respectfully,

W. E. WHYTE.

WILKES-BARRE, Luzerne Co., Pa.,
July 4th, 1876.

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W. E. Whyte & Sons.

CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS.

1776.

"That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES."

Settlements were first established by the whites* from the East and West in the beautiful Valley of Wyoming,† and as one hundred and twenty-five years have rolled away since civilization first trod the banks of the Susquehanna‡ river, and, as there are *none* living who can say I recollect old Wyoming when in its primitive state, those living can have but a faint idea of its rapid rise and progress in its march towards civilization since the advent of the first white settlers upwards of a hundred years ago.

But the most *eventful period* in the history of the territory now known as the *County of Luzerne*, we might say, commenced *just a century ago*, when it was a part of Westmoreland and when there were but few white inhabitants residing within its limits. Indeed, it was but a few years previous to this ever-memorable year that *forty* white settlers from the colony of Connecticut arrived in the Valley of Wyoming and erected a large block-house on the west side of the Susquehanna river, naming it Forty Fort, and waged war upon the Pennamites, so called from being adherents of the proprietary Governor, William Penn, each party striving for possession of the beautiful valley, in which, however, the *Yankees* were unsuccessful.

*The first white man, it is believed, who ever visited Wyoming, was Count Zinzindorf, of Saxony, a Moravian missionary, from Bethlehem (Lehigh county), where a Moravian Mission was being established.—*Hist. Lack'a Valley.*

†Indian, Maughwauwame. ‡Seahäutowano.

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Or to

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Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

William Penn having purchased some time previous of the Indians the Susquehanna river and its islands, purchased again this year of them "the river and the land on both sides, extending eastward as far as the heads of the branches or springs which emptied into it, and west of said river as far as the setting sun, and from its mouth as far as the endless hills, be the same more or less,"—this deed was signed by *twenty-three Chiefs* of the SIX NATIONS* then occupants of the Valley of Wyoming.

The Chiefs of the Six Nations having pledged their support to Great Britain in the war, as against the Colonists, the people found it necessary to build numerous forts so as to protect themselves against the combined attacks of the savage Indian and relentless Tory, yet, notwithstanding the serious besetting dangers at home, a large number of brave men whose hearts beat in unison with the cause, left the settlements and heroically marched to headquarters to battle for *freedom*, under him, who is now known as the *Father of his Country, the immortal* WASHINGTON.

On the 26th of September, of this year, Pennsylvania became a *sovereign State*, and the territory of Westmoreland became a County, and one Jonathan Fitch, was commissioned as Sheriff, a

*The Six Nations comprised the Mohawks, Senecas, Onondagos, Oneidas, Cayugas and the Tuscaroras; says Hollister, "a most powerful confederation, formidable in number, democratic in its organization and terrible in the exercise of its power. Its power was absolute and unquestioned, its government a limited monarchy, vested in a Great Sachem or Chief, directed by a Council of Braves and aged warriors noted for wisdom and bravery. Its ever-burning *Council fire* blazed from the plains of Oh-na-gu-go, while the edicts and wishes of the assembled Sachems carried to Manhattan's shores by runners, were known and respected even in the far-off region of the magnolia and palmetto. With a dialect whose strange intonations bewildered the ear of the white man, and whose tongue, destitute of labials, was so diverse and corrupted from the parent language that many of the tribes living on the same stream could only converse through an interpreter; with neither books nor charts; with no history but the wigwam's lore, no guide but the moon's gray twilight, no valley was sunk too far away in the mountains, no stream stretched its tranquil length through grounds too remote from the war-path to escape the notice of men clad in skins, who occupied and gave them a name."

Other tribes are also identified with the history of the Valley of Wyoming, viz: the Shawnees, Nanticokes and the Delawares. Of the latter the friendly Teedyuscung was King, for whom and his tribe the proprietary government built houses for their accommodation.

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county seat was selected, county officers appointed, taxes levied, schools opened and supported, and other things done and performed necessary to conducting the affairs of the new county.

1777.—The assessments of estates for the county of Westmoreland amounted to upwards of £20,000, independent of State, which was about £2,000 additional.

Excepting the highway of the Susquehanna river, which was no doubt made use of in many instances, especially from certain points, Indian paths were the only thoroughfares whereby the settlers from the East or West could reach Westmoreland, until late in the eighteenth century, when a rough road was constructed from the Hudson River to the Valley, which was the most direct route from the colony of Connecticut, and the Yankees usually frequented this rudely constructed road in their journeys to and from the Wyoming Valley.

In the Valley of Wyoming, and elsewhere in the county, old fortifications, and various relics have been unearthed which give unmistakable evidence that the country was at one time inhabited by a different class of people other than the American Indian of '76, a race superior in intelligence and habits, craftsmen of no ordinary ability, manufactures of articles, rich in design, beautiful in workmanship and finish, workers in highly polished stone, of which, articles have been found buried, it is supposed, with the remains of some renowned warrior or some person otherwise famous, perhaps for good deeds on earth, "peace and good will towards men." There have also been found relics of a later period, those in use by the Indian, as known to our forefathers. They include rude stone vessels and mortars, flint arrows, pestles, stone tomahawks and knives, together with other articles too numerous to mention, of which there are some very beautiful and interesting collections. In the Historical Museum, at Wilkes-Barre, is exhibited a very fine collection, but the most extensive collection, as I believe, are in the hands of two celebrated antiquarians, the Hon. Steuben Jenkins, of Wyoming, and Dr. Hollister, of Providence. The former is now, and has been for many years engaged in writing a book on the history of the Valley and neighborhood, and

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the latter is an author of considerable repute, his interesting work, "The History of the Lackawanna* Valley," having passed through *three editions*. It is however, anticipated that Mr. Jenkins' book will be the most complete and interesting of the many that have been brought into public notice, which include Chapman's, Stone's, Miner's, Peck's, Pearce's and Hollister's,† all of which, deserve much praise for the very able manner and graphic style in which they are written.

The Valley, nay, the county generally, in its early history abounded with rich and delicious fruit, even to the apple and plum, which were no doubt cultivated by the Indian, while the wild cherry, the berry and nut of various kinds were legion in their growth.

And as the forest abounded with game of various kind, so did the rivers and lakes abound with the finny tribe, hence it is no matter of surprise why the savage was so loth to be separated from a country so bountifully supplied by the Creator, and in excess of his natural wants, but, alas, does he not deserve to a very great extent, notwithstanding the blood-thirsty deeds he has so often committed, our greatest sympathy, yes, even now, in his far-distant home, he has to retire, as of yore, before the march of civilization? as the "star of Empire Westward takes its way."

During this eventful year twenty tons of coal was shipped in two boats to Harrisburg, for the use of the U. S. Armory.

A post-route established semi-monthly to Hartford Connecticut.

1778.—The first Forge to manufacture bar iorn erected on Nanticoke Creek.

July 3rd, Battle of Wyoming fought, in which "a combined force of British, Tories and Indians" committed the most infamous deeds on record, and it was not until the 22nd of October that the settlers were able to assemble on the bloody and fatal field to bury their much lamented dead. The Indians during this year scalped, killed and stole many of the settlers, who were always in dread of their clandestine visits.

*Indian, Leekaughhunt.

†From the pages of some of these works is gathered much of the information chronicled herein,

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1779.—The Indians resumed their visits to the Valley and committed many depredations, when occasionally they met the chastisement they so richly deserved, at the hands of the much injured and peaceable settlers.

Court held in Fort Wilkes-Barre, erected where subsequently stood the old log Court House, on the Public Square.

The first Masonic Lodge at Wilkes-Barre was held in a military marquee on the river bank. Subsequently the A. Y. M. met February 27th, 1794, in the "Old Fell House."

In consequence of the continued depredations committed on the settlers by the Indians and Tories, and to chastise them for the part they took in the battle of Wyoming, General Washington dispatched General Sullivan, at the head of 3,000 men, to the rescue. He arrived on the 23d of June, below Wilkes-Barre, where he encamped, and on the 3d of July he marched up the Susquehanna river, accompanied by 300 boats laden with provisions, burning and destroying all the Indian villages, the orchards and crops, belonging to the Six Nations.

On the 8th of October, the army returned to Wyoming, and in two days resumed their march and encamped at Easton.

1780.—Notwithstanding that Col. Zeb. Butler was in command of Fort Wilkes-Barre, who together with some military companies after Sullivau's army left, guarded the county from attack, the savages in small parties continued to harass the settlers, killing and capturing many.

1781.—The Indians continue their depredations, killing, scalping, stealing and laying waste all that come within their reach.

November Court, "a town tax was levied of two-pence in the £ to be paid in hard cash or in specific articles."

1782.—Eight Indians in ambush in Hanover township, on the 8th of July, killed John Jameson, and scalped him, and wounded Asa Chapman, who escaped to Wilkes-Barre, where he died next day.

Says *Pearce* in his *Annals of Luzerne:* "On that day the last blood was shed, and the last scalp taken by the Indians, within the

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present limits of Luzerne County." That this was brought about by the treaty of peace with England, in whose interest the savage had enlisted to massacre the settlers, there can be no doubt, a sad and shameful blot in that portion of the history of Great Britain during the colonial war.

1782.—The intervening years between '75 and this year, were the years that "tried men's souls" during which time the whole Valley was devastated by fire and sword, homes were made desolate, buildings wantonly destroyed, the maimed and the sick, the widow and the orphan, the old and the young reduced to beggary and want, and to nothing save the indomitable will, the unflinching courage, and physical endurance of a few settlers, "chiefly the old and the very young, spared from the distant ranks of the Continental army" can be attributed the victories gained over their enemies.

Says Pearce in his Annals of Luzerne:

"The inhabitants of Wyoming suffered the horrors of war from "1768 until 1776 in rather its milder form, but during the Revolution "no people ever met with greater disasters. Upwards of two hun- "dred and thirty men, women and children were murdered and "scalped by Indians. About fifty others were carried away into "captivity, and eight or ten more were burnt alive. They suffered "from hunger, and cold, and disease, and imprisonment, and bon- "dage, and floods, and fire, and yet, true to their purpose they nev- "er thought for a moment of abandoning their charming valley."

It was during this year that Commissioners appointed by Congress, settled the much vexed question as to the right of title to the lands so frequently contested between the Pennamites and Yankees, by decreeing in favor of the former, a decision the state of Connecticut submitted to very graciously, and thus ended a controversy which, lamentable as it was, can only be attributed to the double policy of King Charles II, by which land, which had been granted

NOTE.—Wyoming Valley in the Indian tongue signifying large plains, is twenty-one miles in length and will average three miles in width. It contains 40,000 acres of arable and wood land. The Susquehanna river occupies the center, and the mountains tower above it on either side to a hight of from 500 to 1900 feet. There are several other beautiful valleys within the county, as also mountains of more or less hight, the highest being North Mountain.

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to the colony of Connecticut in 1662, was regranted by his letters-patent to William Penn in 1681, and hence the contest or "Pennamite War."

One Mary Pritchard was convicted and ordered to pay a fine of five shillings into the town treasury, for going away from her residence unnecessarily on the Sabbath day, and at the same term a person found guilty of stealing was sentenced to receive ten stripes, to be well administered on the bare back, and another was sentenced to serve for two years the person from whom he stole a deerskin.

1783.—Road wagons and other vehicles introduced to ride in.

1784.—A terrible snow-fall, barricaded the inhabitants in their dwellings, which eventually was carried away by a heavy ice flood.

1786.—The great "Pumpkin Flood" inundated the entire Valley and did much damage.

On the 25th September Luzerne county, then a part and parcel of the County of Northumberland, was formed, and so named in honor of the *Chevalier De La Lucerne*, minister from France to this country, during five years of our Revolutionary struggle.*

1787.—May 27th, Justices of the Court of Common Pleas commissioned, and sworn in.

1788.—Among the various minerals deposited in the county of Luzerne, tradition gives an account of GOLD. It is said to have been worked in considerable quantities by the Indians in a mountain overlooking Wilkes-Barre. Bald mountain is supposed to be the spot. None of the bright metal, however, has been found by the settlers to verify the traditionary account. Silver mines are also spoken of as located in Wyoming.

Several salt springs are known to have existed in the Lackawanna valley, of which the Indians made good use, the richest of which, *writes Hollister*, was located on the *Nay Aug*, and another in the

NOTE.—The Susquehanna river, signifying in the Indian tongue *broad shallow river*, keeps on its meandering course for twenty-eight miles through the county.

* "The original territory of Luzerne embraced 5,000 square miles, exceeding in extent the State of Connecticut."

"To perfect the boundary lines of Luzerne, in 1804, a portion of the northwestern corner was annexed to Lycoming county, and in 1808 there was added to it a part of Northumberland, lying west and southwest of the Nescopeck creek."—*Annals of Luzerne.*

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upper part of Leggett's gap, near Providence, from which the early white settlers of the Lackawanna and Wyoming valleys granulated salt for domestic use.

A public highway across Luzerne surveyed by authority of the Legislature.

Two persons were killed by Indians, at Indian Spring, near Cobb's gap, when fleeing from the Valley of Wyoming, while in the act of stooping down to drink.

In March of this year, five commissioners appointed at the expense of the State, surveyed and laid out roads from the Delaware, near Stroudsburg to Montrose, then within the limits of Luzerne county. Years, however elapsed ere it was made.

Philip Abbott, from Connecticut, was the first settler in "Deep Hollow," afterwards called "Slocum Hollow," and now SCRANTON, and built a rude grist-mill upon Roaring Brook.

1790.—The county being divided into townships, districts were formed for the election of Justices. At this period, the county contained eleven slaves and thirteen free colored persons.

The first saw-mill built in Providence township. It was located on Meadow Brook, near Scranton.

1791.—The first President Judge for the county of Luzerne was Jacob Rush, and Matthias Hollenback was the first Associate.

During this year a Court house and jail combined, erected in the public square, Wilkes-Barre, on the site of the Old Fort. It was constructed of hewn logs, 25x50, two story high, the first was used as a Jail and jailor's residence, and the jailor's good wife sold cakes and beer in the building, and it also served occasionally as a place of worship for some of the religious sects.

1794.—A fatal form of typhus fever raged along the Susquehanna. Whole families fell victims to it.

1795.—This year, *Louis Phillipe, King of France*, was a guest at the old *Morgan House*, River street, Wilkes-Barre, where Edward Darling's house now stands.

Aaron Dolph, built for himself a log-house, where laterly stood the Hyde Park Hotel—and the first hotel or tavern was kept by his brother Jonathan.

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The first newspaper in the county "The Herald of the Times" was published in Wilkes-Barre.

1797.—In June of this year the Duke of Orleans, Duke of Montpensier and the Count of Beaugolais, exiles from France, arrived in Wilkes-Barre, and were accommodated in a small tavern on River street.

1798.—Ebenezer and Benjman Slocum, whose father was shot and scalped by the Indians, became the purchasers of the land and grist-mill at *Deep Hollow*, hence, why it was afterwards known as *Slocum Hollow*.

There were only two grist-mills from Nanticoke to the State line. A mail was run fortnightly between Wilkes-Barre and Great Bend.

Wilkes-Barre, the Post office for the whole county.

1799.—The first practical miner a Welshman named Abraham Williams, arrived in the Valley of Wyoming, prior to his advent coal was mined by removing the surface-earth and slate from the vein. It was simply quarrying for coal at a great cost if not loss to all parties interested.

The Slocum's having enlarged the mill in Slocum Hollow, added thereto a distillery; for whisky, like the "staff of life," was necessary to the existence of the early settlers, the only luxury, if it may be termed so, excepting the *Virginia weed*, or that of their own growth, they indulged in. In this epoch there were but probably a dozen buildings of all kinds in the Hollow.

Although rafts were numerous on the Susquehanna during high water, the first ark passed down the river this year.

A weekly mail route opened between Wilkes-Barre and Owego, N. Y. Mails were carried by postmen on horse and on foot.

1800.—The men of the County, with but few exceptions, were agriculturists, and the women were manufacturers, that is, in addition to their legitimate household duties, they milked, churned, carded, spun, knit, and wove articles necessary for the use and wear of the family, and frequently assisted in field labor. They were *helpmates indeed!*

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This year the contract for the building of the church "Old Ship Zion," was awarded to Joseph Hitchcock. It was to be built from subscriptions, and the proceeds from the sale of the public ferry, but owing to a lack of funds, twelve years elapsed ere it was completed.

The Slocum's erect an iron forge in the Hollow. The smelting was done by charcoal, coal not being in use for that purpose until *thirty-six years* later.

Thus closed the *eighteenth century*, with but few if any other events of note to chronicle in the county's history, unless we except the construction of the beautiful road, six rods wide and five miles long, from Wyoming to Kingston, for which we are indebted to the late Mr. John Jenkins, C. E *

1802.—Turnpike roads came into requisition, when a charter was procured to construct the "Easton and Wilkes-Barre turnpike." This road cost $75,000 and was a financial success.

The settlement of Ragged Island, now Carbondale, by Dr. Ailsworth, of Rhode Island, occurred during this year.

1804.—The old church, now at Forty Fort, was erected. It was the *first finished* church in the county.

At this period there were six distilleries in Wilkes-Barre, "distilleries are said to be the *earliest* institutions in the Valley." Men drank whisky freely, and women and children to some extent. It was a morning and evening beverage, in many cases no doubt, taken medicinally.

The first debating society in the county organized in this year at Wilkes-Barre.

1805.—The first animal show, an elephant, exhibited in Wilkes-Barre.

The Old Slocum House was the first frame building erected in Scranton, and the second built of like material was erected by Benjamin Slocum.

*"From 1787 to 1800, the average annual expenditures of the county were $3,600, and the value of property for taxable purposes amounted to about $700,000."—*Annals of Luzerne.*

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224 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA.

(Adjoining Second National Bank.)

The old log Court House, Wilkes-Barre, was converted into an academy, it having been removed westward of the new Court House, a few feet. The first teacher was Dr. Thayer, who was followed by Mr. Finney, and the latter by Mr. Garrick Mallery, under whom the school became celebrated as an institution of great learning, and students from home and abroad thronged its benches.

1806.—The first white child born in Carbondale. This was on the spot now known as "Meredith Place," where Ailsworth, the first settler there built his habitation.

The Wilkes-Barre library formed, but it did not exist long.

Wilkes-Barre Borough was incorporated this year, and the first Burgess was Judge Fell.

A two-horse stage commenced running this year, between Wilkes-Barre and Easton, running through in a day and a half, at $3.50 each passenger.

1807.—Wilkes-Barre Bridge Company incorporated, but the bridge was not completed until eleven years later, and then at a cost of $44,000.

About this time the old jail on East Market street was completed at a cost of nearly $6,000. Population of borough of Wilkes-Barre, from four to five hundred.

Wilkes-Barre Academy incorporated.

1808.—Anthracite coal burned for the first time, as an experiment, in a hickory grate by Judge Fell, in the "old Fell Tavern," now on the corner of Washington and Northampton streets, Wilkes-Barre. This being a success it was soon noised abroad, iron grates were erected, and coal was soon afterwards transported to the large cities and other places for domestic use.

1809.—The first Camp meeting in the county was held near the village of Wyoming, then called New Troy.

1810.—The first Banking House in Wilkes-Barre, opened as a branch of the Philadelphia Bank.

In this year the Luzerne County Agricultural Society was first organized for the advancement of the farming interest, but the first annual fair was not held until 48 years later, and then at Wyoming, on

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S. E. HUGEHS,
Dealer in Foreign and Domestic
Dry Goods, Notions & Fancy Goods.
MOURNING GOODS A SPECIALTY.
424 EAST MARKET STREET,
WILKES-BARRE.

☞ *GYMRU COFIWCH AM Y LLE HWN.*

the present fair grounds, hence, it would appear that the farmers generally, did not take so much interest in farming as in coal land speculation and mining, and I may say, so has it been up to the present time.

The government contracted to carry the mails, and Post offices were established at Plymouth, Kingston, and Pittston.

A strip was taken from Luzerne county and added to Bradford and Susquehanna counties.

1811.—The first nail factory erected in Wilkes-Barre.

1812.—The first church erected and completed in the Public Square, Wilkes-Barre. Various sects worshipped therein, until the Methodists and Presbyterians could not agree—when it became the property of the former by purchase.

The first paper mill erected on Toby's creek.

War with England having been declared, the "Wyoming Matross," Capt. S. Thomas, a volunteer company, the first military company in the county, tendered their services to the government;

They served in a Pennsylvania regiment with distinction.

1813.—Two four horse wagon loads of coal sent to Philadelphia. This was the first large quantity sent from the valley to that city.

1815.—Where Scranton proper stands now, was a wilderness.

1817.—A company incorporated to make the Lackawanna river navigable, it was not a success.

1819.—Mr. H. W. Drinker, anxious to develop the resources of the county, proposed to erect an inclined plane railroad from Pittston to the Delaware Water Gap, to be operated by hydraulic power.

1822.—St. Stephens' Episcopal church, Wilkes-Barre, was completed.

Maurice Wurts, the first person to mine coal in Carbondale, then called "Ragged Island."

NOTE.—Mr. Wurts, from 1812, was the pioneer coal man of the Lackawanna Valley, and owned large tracts of land, which were worth then, or rather could be bought, at from fifty cents to $3.00 per acre, he owned and mined coal from the ground whereon the City of Carbondale is now located.

J. H. NEAGLE,

Has a splendid assortment of

Cloths, Cassimeres, Worsteds and Vestings,

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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

WINES, LIQUORS & CIGARS,

Cor. S. Main and Northampton Sts., WILKES-BARRE, PA.

1823.—The first organ in the county was placed in St. Stephen's church, Wilkes-Barre, and the first tune played was *Yankee Doodle.*

1824.—A terrific hurricane carried the Wilkes Barre bridge from off its piers a distance up the river.

1824.—The first river boat propelled by horse-power, arrived in Wilkes-Barre from Nescopeck.

The first brewery erected in Wilkes-Barre by an Englishman named Ingham.

1826.—The first steamboat drawing 8 inches water, with an engine of 10 horse power, (stern wheel,) arrived in Wilkes-Barre from York Haven.

The borough of Wilkes-Barre limits 250 acres, 40 of the river bank washed away by freshets in *fifty years.*

1828.—Coal mined near the east end of Pittston bridge.

1829.—The coal trade increasing rapidly, the Baltimore coal company organized.

The first bank, "Wyoming Bank," at Wilkes-Barre, chartered.

1830.—The first canal boat named the "Wyoming," launched at Wilkes-Barre.

1831.—The first odd fellows lodge in the county, held at Wilkes-Barre.

1832.—The first newspaper published in Kingston, was the "Wyoming Republican."

1833.—The first steam engine manufactured in the county was made in Wilkes-Barre, by Richard Jones, a young man of much mechanical ability. This, however, was in miniature, the cylinder being only 1½ inches in diameter, with a three inch stroke, it nevertheless, propelled a paddle-wheel boat, 6½ feet long on the canal at a rapid speed.

1834.—The north branch canal completed to the Lackawanna river.

1835.—Frances Slocum, who with another, was carried away by the Indians from her father's residence in the Valley of Wyoming, immediately after the battle, is found among the Miami tribe of Indians at Logansport, Indiana. She had been brought up by the Indians, and was married to a chief, by whom she had two daugh-

[ESTABLISHED 1853.]

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ters, was highly respected and wealthy, and preferred living among the tribe to joining her family again. She was visited by her brothers to whom she gave an account of her captivity.

1836.—A small charcoal furnace erected on Toby's creek, near the site of the old paper mill.

Mr. J. J. Albright was tendered 500 acres of land where Scranton now stands for $5,000; yet, although *long credit* was offered, it was considered *too high* a price.

The first serviceable engine of 15 horse-power was manufactured in Wilkes-Barre, for a grist mill at Plymouth.

1838.—The bones of the slain at the Wyoming massacre being collected together, they were deposited in the ground, and the corner stone of the Wyoming Monument was laid with appropriate ceremonies.

1839.—Wilkes-Barre Female Seminary incorporated.

Wyoming Academy, formerly Wilkes-Barre, incorporated.

1840.—An extensive rolling mill and nail factory erected at South Wilkes-Barre, at a cost of $300,000. The population of Wilkes-Barre increased rapidly during the very short time these works were in operation.

Messrs. Henry and Armstrong purchased 503 acres of the Scranton lands for $8,000, but owing to the death of the latter within 30 days of the purchase, Mr. Henry entered into other arrangements, and the place of his deceased partner was filled by the late Colonel Scranton and others, who commenced forthwith to erect a large furnace, which soon gave inspiration and another name to *Slocum Hollow*, the *most humble* of all the villages of its day in the county.

This year Madison and Muehlenburg Academies were incorporated.

In the days of "hard cider," Capoose, afterwards Deep Hollow, and later Slocum Hollow, was in honor of the President of the United States named Harrison.

1842.—Another strip taken from Luzerne to form the county of Wyoming.

The first baloon ascension in Wilkes-Barre, the æronaut was Wm. Wise.

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BUTTER, EGGS, Etc.

CAR LOTS A SPECIALTY.

MAIN STREET,

PITTSTON, PA.

A New York firm, erected in Wilkes-Barre, an anthracite furnace, operated by steam power.

Providence Union Library incorporated.

July 11.—White Haven borough incorporated.

1843.—The first railroad (L. C. & N. C.) completed by way of Solomon's Gap, from Wilkes-Barre to White Haven.

A rolling mill and nail factory erected by the Scranton Iron Co., commenced work, which led to large investments being made in coal lands.

At this time the village of Harrison had no post office, while Hyde Park and Providence had, nor had the village a *minister*, *lawyer*, or *physician*.

1844.—September 24. The Kingston Seminary was formally opened, with the Rev. R. Nelson, A. M., as principal, and in seven years later Mr. William Swetland, contributed $3,000 to erect an additional building, which was known as "Swetland Hall," and Mr. Ziba Bennett contributed $500 towards a library, but unfortunately in 1853, these buildings were consumed by fire, when Mr. Swetland and others again came to the rescue and donated about $10,000 to rebuild them.

1845.—Dr. Gideon Underwood, the first resident physician in Harrison, (Scranton.)

Wyoming Athæneum incorporated.

Wyoming Seminary O. A. C. M. E. C. incorporated.

1846.—A great and disastrous flood occurred, which carried away many valuable bridges erected over the Susquehanna.

December 7.—The Wyoming Artillerists, under command of Captain E. L. Dana, left Wilkes-Barre for the seat of war in Mexico. The majority returned with Captain Dana still in command, after an absence of nearly three years, covered with honor and glory.

1847.—The first T rails made in Harrison (Scranton) were for the N. Y. & Erie R. R.

1848.—The first drug store opened in Harrison by Drs. Throop and Sherrerd.

GO TO

SAMTER,

SQUARE DEALING

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FOR GOOD, DURABLE GARMENTS AT ONE PRICE,

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Proprietor of "WILLIAMS' BILLIOUS AND LIVER PILLS," and "SARAXCUM or DANDELION COFFEE."

1849.—The first person executed under Pennsylvania law, and since the organization of the county, was James Cadden, for the murder of Daniel Gilligan.

Lackawanna Institute incorporated.

March 14.—Providence borough incorporated

1850.—Wilkes-Barre Water Company incorporated, the first pipe was laid in 1859, and the water was turned on in 1860.

The Wyoming Institute, in Wyoming village, was incorporated.

The first newspaper published in Pittston was the "Pittston Gazette."

Luzerne Presbyterian Institute incorporated.

Pittston Ferry Bridge Company incorporated.

1851.—The plank road from Wilkes-Barre to Pittston, constructed at an outlay of $45,000, it did not last long.

March .—City Carbondale incorporated.

Columbus Male and Female Academy incorporated.

1852.—Hyde Park Academy incorporated.

May 14.—Hyde Park Borough incorporated.

1853.—Clark's Green Library and Literary Company incorporated.

Jenkin's Institute of History and Science incorporated.

Wyoming Seminary W. A. C. M. E. C. incorporated.

Pittston Borough incorporated.

1854.—The Wilkes-Barre Female Institute incorporated and opened.

The first gas works, the Wilkes-Barre Gas Company incorporporated. The borough was first lighted in 1856.

1855.—Mr. Grimmer, of Brooklyn, N. Y., commenced laying out the grounds at Hollenback Cemetery.

The Scranton Institute incorporated.

1856.—The first R. C. Church in Wilkes-Barre, was erected on Canal street. The preseut large and handsome structure, on Washington street, was completed three years ago.

July 14.—Scranton Borough incorporated.

August 17.—Hazleton Borough incorporated.

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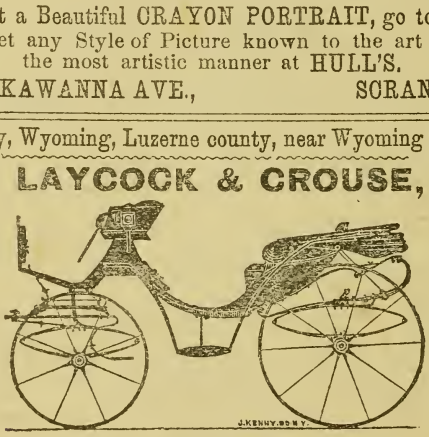

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CARRIAGES, BUGGIES, SLEIGHS

Of the most Approved Pattern and Latest Style,
And all kinds of LIGHT VEHICLES.

REPAIRING NEATLY DONE ON REASONABLE TERMS.

The corner stone of the present Court House, Wilkes-Barre, was laid by Lodge No. 64, A. Y. M., it was completed in January, 1850, at a cost of $85,000, and probably as much more has been expended since in enlarging and alterations.

1857.—The fire department was re-organized by C. C. Plotz.

The first insurance company in the county, the Wyoming Insurance Company, incorporated.

August 19.—West Pittston Borough incorporated.

1858.—The first newspaper published in Plymouth was "The Plymouth Register."

On the 11th of February, this year, several gentlemen met at the "Old Fell Tavern," Wilkes-Barre, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the burning of anthracite coal, in an open grate; when it was proposed to establish a historical society, in the following May the present society was incorporated.

August 23.—Waverly Borough incorporated.

The Wyoming Literary Institute incorporated.

1861.—November 30.—Shickshinny Borough incorporated.

The great war for the preservation of the Union commenced; and on April 18th, the first military company (three months men) left Wilkes-Barre for the front, agreeable to a call for troops by the government. Other companies soon followed from Pittston, Plymouth and other places in the county.

The highest ice flood for fifty years occurred this year in the Susquehanna, it done immense damage.

1862.—April 10.—Dunmore Borough incorporated.

1865.—March 17th.—Another great flood in the Susquehanna river; houses, barns, canal boats, lumber, trees, fences, cattle, horses, sheep, pigs and chickens, and other valuable property was swept away by the current.

This year terminated the war for the Union, and although it had to be sustained by both men and money, the country had, during the time, a continual run of prosperity.

1866.—The Wyoming Valley Hotel, on the site of the old "Phœnix," Wilkes Barre, completed at a cost, including furniture, &c., of $175,000.

AR OL BWYTA SYCHED SYDD.

The "RUSH HOUSE,"

807 ARCH STREET, above 8th,

PHILADELPHIA,

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PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DINING ROOMS.

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North Eastern School of Design, for women, incorporated.

West Pittston Seminary incorporated.

Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association incorporated.

April 23.—City of Scranton incorporated, formed out of the boroughs, Scranton, Hyde Park and Providence.

Plymouth Borough incorporated.

Scranton and Hyde Park Bridge incorporated.

1867.—April. A most disastrous conflagration occurred in West Market street, Wilkes-Barre, 19 stores and 3 dwellings were consumed by the fiery element.

Scranton Lyceum incorporated.

April 3d.—Sugar Notch Borough incorporated.

1868.—Pittston Depot Bridge incorporated.

Keystone Academy incorporated.

Luzerne County Agricultural Society exempted from taxation.*

1869.—The Avondale disaster, whereby over 100 men and boys lost their lives by the works taking fire.

Scranton Law and Library Association incorporated.

Sugar Loaf Seminary incorporated.

1870.—The new county prison completed at a cost of $300,000. First prisoners entered August 19.

Avondale Relief Association incorporated.

January 3d.—Gibsonburg borough incorporated.

1871.—Music Hall block, Wilkes-Barre, completed at a cost of $120,000, the opera house was opened by Louise Kellogg, in concert, February 2.

Lee Park Association incorporated.

March 4th.—City of Wilkes-Barre incorporated.

The first Mayor of Wilkes-Barre, I. M. Kirkendall, elected.

Crystal Lake Steamboat Company incorporated.

May 24th.—Pleasant Valley borough incorporated.

October 23d.—Jeddo borough incorporated.

May 12th.—Gouldsboro incorporated.

*Note.—It is much to be regretted that the Fair ground at Wyoming is not better patronized, delightfully situated as it is, with access from the north and south over one of the finest roads in the country.

DR. J. E. VALENTINE,

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129 W. MARKET ST., WILKES-BARRE, PA.

1873.—Pittston Library Association incorporated.

Hazleton Park incorporated.

1874.—The steamboat "Hendrick B. Wright," (Incorporated company), built and completed, to ply between Wilkes-Barre and Nanticoke.

April 24.—Ashley borough incorporated.

January 31.—Nanticoke borough incorporated.

1875.—In the spring of this year a terrible ice freshet, *an avalanche* in itself, done great damage to the land on both sides of the Susquehanna river, and in its course carried away three bridges at Pittston.

The ice broke up with a noise resembling the roar of artillery, while the huge pieces rose high above the river bank, and carried away all that they came in contact with; yet, destructive and threatening as it was, the sight was, nevertheless, as grand as it was terrible, and not in the memory of the oldest inhabitant had such a sight occurred before.

The beautiful side-wheel steamboat, "Owego," purchased by Messrs. Shiffer & Smith, arrived in Pittston from Owego to ply between Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, Plymouth and Nanticoke.*

Cities of Scranton and Carbondale Mayor's Court abolished by the adoption of the New Constitution.

The Cliff works of the Dickson Manufacturing Company destroyed by fire.

The High Sheriff called to suppress a riot at Buck Mountain.

The Sportmens' Club, of Scranton organized.

Judge Woodward died in Rome.

An immense *Welsh Eisteddfod*† held in Hyde Park, Scranton, over 5,000 persons were comfortably seated in the great *Marquee*, the programme occupied three days.

*Note.—Steamboats, like the old adage, "It never rains but pours," soon became legion, there being no less than a dozen of various size and style at this present time floating on the bosom of the tranquil but deceptive Susquehanna. To use a commercial phrase "the market is glutted."

†Eisteddfod is the *Welsh* for *Congress*, a meeting of bards, or learned people, who, in the delivery of essays, singing, music, &c., before competent judges, compete for prizes of more or less value.

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ALE, BEER, PORTER, &c.

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WILKES-BARRE, PA.

Pittston depot bridge, as also the Pittston L & B. B. Railroad bridge were rebuilt this year.

The coal mined in the county during this year is estimated at 12,000,000 tons, or more than HALF of the entire product of the anthracite region, and if the waste lost in the preparation of coal for market was included, it would swell the amount to about 15,000,000 tons actually mined.

The getting of this enormous amount of coal, gives employment to upwards of 30,000 men and boys in and around the mines, who receive for their labor from *one million and a half to two million dollars per montn.*

1876.

During the forepart of this eventful year, was built of iron, and completed, the *Pittston Ferry Bridge*, a very handsome structure, combining beauty with strength; the east end lands on Main street many feet beyond and above where the old bridge did, the L. V. R. R. passing directly underneath.

The Wilkes-Barre City Hospital was also built and completed this year, on grounds overlooking Hollenback Cemetery and the Susquehanna river, a very desirable location.

COUNTY STATISTICS.—Luzerne furnished the territory for Susquehanna county in 1810, and for Wyoming county in 1842. Luzerne was formed from a part of Northumberland in 1786, having then but a population of about 4,000. In 1810, when Susquehanna was formed, Luzerne's population was 18,000, 7,000 of which she gave to Susquehanna. In 1842, when Wyoming was formed. Luzerne's population was 44,000, 10,000 of which she gave to Wyoming. There are nine counties in the State which surpass Luzerne in the number of her manufacturing establishments, and but two—Philadelphia and Allegheny—which surpass her in the value of her manufactured products. There are in the county 194,115 acres of improved, and 174,381 acres of unimproved agricultural lands, and the farms are valued at nearly $20,000,000. The value of the agricultural products of 1875 are estimated at $8,500,000.—*Hazleton Sentinel.*

"OES Y BYD IR IAETH CYMRAEG."

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424 EAST MARKET STREET, (Jennings' Block.)

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AT PRICES AS CHEAP AS THE CHEAPEST.

Black Alpacas.— After a thorough examination in all the leading houses of New York, we guarantee our brand to be equal if not superior to any in the Market.

Corsets.— The best $1.00 corsets in the City for NINETY-FIVE cents; also, the 50 and 100 bone corsets at *Manufacturers Prices*, in which we defy competition.

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☞ *MOURNING GOODS A SPECIALTY.* ☜

I INVITE PUBLIC INSPECTION.

Respectfully,

S. E. HUGHES.

APPENDIX.

"Breathes there a Yank so mean, so small,
Who never says 'Wall, neow; by gaul.
I reckon, since old Adam's fall,
There's never growed on this 'ere ball
A nation so all-fired tall
As we Centennial Yankees?'"

The writer deems it not improper that the events chronicled herein during a *century of time*, should be followed by a few pertinent remarks on subjects, which would otherwise occupy more time and space than could be very well given in a work of this kind; indeed, it is not to be presumed that *every incident*, that has occurred in the county during a hundred years, have been chronicled in these pages, but only such as were deemed most interesting to the general reader, he would, however, remark that the territory now comprising the *County of Luzerne*, especially that of the *Wyoming Valley*, was settled by white people several years prior to "1876," the opening date of these "Chronological Events," (p. 7).

It was in the year 1842 that *Teedyuscung*, King of the Delawares, and his *tribe* left the banks of the Delaware to settle in Wyoming, for whom the proprietary government built houses near Wilkes-Barre, and it was in the same year that Count Zinzindorf, the Moravian missionary, who, as already stated, was the "*first white man*," to visit the Valley (note, p. 7), also arrived on a visit to the *Shawanese tribe*, with whom he succeeded in obtaining friendly intercourse.

TWENTY YEARS later a Mr. John Jenkins and others, members of the "Connecticut Susquehanna Company," *eight hundred and forty*

Circulation 10,000.

THE SUNDAY MORNING

FREE PRESS,

(Established June 4th, 1872.)

Independent, Radical and Right.

SCRANTON, PA.

Delivered by its own PONY EXPRESS in every City, Town and Hamlet, within a radius of 25 miles of the publication office, simultaneously with its delivery in Scranton. Single copy 5 cents. $2.00 per annum.

☞THE BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM IN LUZERNE COUNTY.☜

in number, arrived and took peaceable possession of the "Susquehanna lands" under a charter granted the *Colony of Connecticut* by *King Charles* II, but, in the following year they were attacked by Indians, who murdered many of their number and drove the remainder away.

After this sanguinary event *six years* elapsed ere an attempt was made by the *Yankees* to gain possession of their lands and tenements, (p. 7), and when they did, it was to find them in the possession of the *Proprietary Government*, who held them under a charter also granted by *Charles* II, in 1681, to William Penn (p. 19), backed by a deed of purchase recently obtained from the *Chiefs of the Six Nations* "of all the lands, not previously sold, within the province of Pennsylvania." This event inaugurated, in the following year (1770), the "*Pennamite war*," (p. 7), in which year the township of Wilkes-Barre was surveyed, and the plot for the village of Wilkes-Barre was laid out, the name being derived from the union of the surnames of two popular gentlemen named *Wilkes* and *Barre*

The year 1772 was to the settlers a very prosperous year, and the population increased rapidly.

During the intervening years and 1775, places of business were established in Wilkes-Barre, marriages were celebrated, and although the disputed title had not been settled, a *Code of Laws* were adopted at HARTFORD, Connecticut, for the government of the settlement, and thus matters progressed until early in the month of December, 1775, when the Northumberland *militia*, 700 strong, in the interest of the *Pennamites*, invaded the valley. They were met by a force of *half* their number, who signally defeated them and compelled them to *beat a hasty retreat*, leaving their dead and wounded on the battle field, near Nanticoke Falls. This was the last hostile attempt on the part of the *Pennamites* to regain possession of the lands in dispute (p. 17). Such is a brief history of the events which occurred in the county prior to 1776.

The writer would further remark that there have been, and, probably there are now in the county, upwards of *fifty* Building and Loan Associations, *seventy* beneficial, *eighteen cemetery*, *four* com-

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mercial, *sixteen* co-operative, and about *one hundred and forty-three* churches and religious associations (more or less.)

There are also in the county about *forty* banking houses, *twelve* insurance companies, *twenty-four* water and gas, and at one time about *two hundred* coal companies, most of the latter are, however, now merged into larger companies and under different corporate names.

And among the latter deserving special mention are the *Delaware & Hudson; Delaware, Lackawanna & Western; Pennsylvania; Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre and Susquehanna Companies.* The two former rank as the most extensive and oldest incorporated companies in the *coal fields* of Pennsylvania.

And among the leading industries of the county, mention might be made of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, Scranton, which gives employment to 3,000 men and boys. Their new steel works, for the manufacture of steel rails is the *second largest* in the United States.

The Dickson Manufacturing Company, in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, and the Hazard Wire Rope Company, also the Vulcan Iron Works, and the Wyoming Valley Manufacturing Company, at Wilkes-Barre, together with numerous other works, also employ a *great number* of people; indeed, in *prosperous times* the *hum* of the *Wheel of Industry* could be heard from one end of the county to the other, and it is to be hoped that the cause, be what it may, which paralyzes labor at this present time, will soon be over, and that once more the machinery of the county will again *hum the tune*, "GOOD TIMES."

N. B.—Several copies of the "CENTENNIAL CHRONOLOGY OF THE COUNTY OF LUZERNE AND ITS COAL FIELDS," by W. E. W., have been deposited in the Archives of the United States Centennial Commission, Philadelphia.

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[ELECTED OFFICERS.]

Office.	*Incumbent.*	*Term Expires.*
President Judge,	HON. G. M. HARDING,	January 1, 1880.
Law Judges,	" E. L. DANA,	" " 1878.
	" JOHN HANDLEY,	" " 1885.
Associate Judge,	" D. K. MORSS,	" " 1877.
District Attorney,	ALEXANDER FARNHAM,	" " "
High Sheriff,	W. P. KIRKENDALL,	" " 1878.
Prothonotary,	S. W. TRIMMER,	" " 1877.
Clerk of Courts,	M. ZIMMERMAN,	" " "
Register of Wills,	J. K. BOGERT,	" " 1879.
Recorder of Deeds,	OTTO KAISER,	" " "
Treasurer,	JOHN MCNEISH, JR.,	" " "
Commissioners,	N. N. DEAN, SAMUEL LINE, PETER JENNINGS,	" " "
Auditors,	W. E. WHYTE, J. C. COON, G. B. SQUIERS,	" " "
Coroner,	D. PRENDERGAST,	" " "

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ERRATA.

CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS.

Introductory.—Thirteenth line read " that man" &c.

Note, page 7.—The name " *Scahautowano*," *Hollister*, in his " History of the Lackawanna Valley," applies to *Wyomick*, *Wyamack*, *Wyomink* and lastly *Wyoming*.

Page 11.—For manufacture read manufacturers.

Note, page 17.—Since this NOTE was put in *type* the writer has been informed that the altitude of *Hazleton* is *greater* than that of North Mountain.

Page 28.—" Hugehs" read Hughes. (See advertisement page 46).

Page 37.—City of Carbondale was incorporated March 15, 1851.

APPENDIX.

Page 47.—For " 1876" read 1776, and for " 1842" read 1742.

" " —TEDYUSCUNG became *King* of the *Delawares* some years after their arrival in Wyoming, probably in 1755, he succeeded their great SACHEM *Tudame*, who was murdered probably for being friendly to the white people. In April, 1763, Teedyuscung was also murdered in cold blood, his house was set on fire, and he perished in the flames.

The Delawares, Shawanese, Mohicans, Monseys, Nanticokes, Waamies, and probably portions of other tribes, inhabited the Wyoming and Lackawanna valleys, and other places within the present territory of the county of Luzerne, as abject subjects of the *Six* or *United Nations*, and, in the language of *Hollister*, " they paid tribute to the TARTARS of the Western World at ONANDAGO."

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